



ADA
Atap Design
Awards 2025

2025

JUDGING CRITERIA

ATAP.CO

PROJECT CATEGORIES AWARD CRITERIA

Segments Requiring Different Judging Criteria

1. Residential Design

- Best Residential Design (Landed) \leq 3,000 sq.ft.
- Best Residential Design (Landed) $>$ 3,000 sq.ft.
- Best Residential Design (High-Rise) \leq 2,000 sq.ft.
- Best Residential Design (High-Rise) $>$ 2,000 sq.ft.

2. Luxury Design

- Best Luxury Design (Landed)
- Best Luxury Design (High-Rise)

3. Conceptual Design

- Best Design Concept (Residential) *3D rendering only*
- Best Design Concept (Commercial) *3D rendering only*

4. Commercial Design

- Best Workspace Design \leq 10,000 sq.ft.
- Best Workspace Design $>$ 10,000 sq.ft.
- Best Restaurant Design
- Best Cafe Design
- Best Bar & Club Design
- Best Retail Design
- Best Public Space Design
- Best Show Unit Design
- Best Leisure & Wellness Design
- Best Hospitality Design

5. Transformative Design

- Best Themed Design (Residential)
- Best Themed Design (Commercial)
- Best Reborn Project Design
- Best Building Facade Design

6. Eco-Conscious Design

- Best Sustainable Design

7. Use of Colours

- Best Use of Colours





PROJECT CATEGORY SUBMISSION GUIDE

2025

PROJECT CATEGORY SUBMISSION GUIDE

You are suggested to go through the guidelines and requirements in detail. This guide serves the purpose of assisting you with the submission preparation and to maximise your score in winning the award. Failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification of your entry. For help or further assistance with your registration or submission, please contact the awards team.

Submission Opens: 1st September 2025

Submission Deadline: 15th October 2025

- The project album must be uploaded to Atap.co prior to filling in the submission form.
- Projects submitted for awards consideration must have been completed between **2022 and 2025**.
- Supported image file types are jpeg, png, gif, tiff and bmp. Each image must be under 25 MB in size. High-resolution images are recommended.
- Images should not contain logos, watermarks, or texts of any kind. Collages are not permitted.
- Project submissions must include high-resolution images and a clear floor plan
- Project entries should incorporate a concise description of the concept.
- Upload your completed submission via the Atap Design Awards online submission portal.



RESIDENTIAL DESIGN

Spatial Planning & Functionality (25%)

This category assesses the effective organization and utilization of space within the residential design.

- Ensures a seamless flow and connection between different areas of the home.
- Optimizes the layout for the intended lifestyle and functional needs of the residents.
- Considers natural light and ventilation to create a comfortable and healthy living environment.

Aesthetics & Style (25%)

This category evaluates the overall visual appeal and cohesiveness of the design.

- Ensures the design language is appropriate to the home's architectural style and surrounding environment.
- Emphasizes the effective use of color, materials, and textures to create a harmonious and welcoming atmosphere.

Originality & Innovation (20%)

This category recognizes unique and creative design elements that set the project apart.

- Recognizes designs that are both functional and stylish, with unique touches that make the home special for the people living there.
- Identifies creative solutions to spatial challenges or unconventional design approaches.

Material Selection & Quality (20%)

This category assesses the selection and application of materials within the design.

- Emphasizes the use of high-quality, durable, and aesthetically pleasing materials.
- Considers the suitability of materials for their intended purpose and the overall design aesthetic.

Sustainability & Environmental Considerations (10%)

This category evaluates the project's environmental impact and commitment to sustainable practices.

- Encourages the use of eco-friendly and responsibly sourced materials.
- Considers energy-efficient design choices and features that reduce the home's environmental footprint.



LUXURY DESIGN

Luxury & Exclusivity (30%)

This category assesses the creation of a truly luxurious and exclusive living environment.

- Emphasizes the use of high-end materials, bespoke design elements, and meticulous attention to detail.
- Ensures a sophisticated and refined aesthetic that reflects the client's discerning taste.

Spatial Planning & Functionality (25%)

This category evaluates the effective organization and flow of space within the luxury residence.

- Creates a feeling of spaciousness and luxury, while making sure the space works well for entertaining and relaxing.
- Considers the integration of technology to enhance the luxury experience.

Aesthetics & Style (20%)

This category assesses the overall visual appeal and cohesiveness of the design.

- Emphasizes a strong and well-defined design language that complements the client's personal style.
- Creates a timeless and elegant aesthetic that exudes sophistication.

Originality & Innovation (15%)

This category recognizes unique and bespoke design elements that elevate the luxury experience.

- Recognizes creative use of technology and automation to enhance comfort and convenience.
- Encourages personalized touches that cater to the client's individual preferences.

Sustainability & Environmental Considerations (10%)

This category evaluates the project's commitment to sustainable practices without compromising luxury.

- Encourages the incorporation of eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient design choices.
- Considers the environmental impact of the design and its contribution to a sustainable lifestyle.



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

(3D Renderings Only)

Design Vision & Concept (30%)

This category assesses the clarity, strength, and originality of the design concept.

- Evaluates the participant's ability to curate a compelling vision and develop innovative ideas.
- Emphasizes effective communication of the design intent through renderings and presentations.

Visual Presentation & Communication (20%)

This category evaluates the quality and effectiveness of the visual presentation.

- Assesses the realism and technical proficiency of 3D renderings and other visual materials.
- Emphasizes the ability to convey the mood, atmosphere, and functionality of the space through visuals.

Design Logic & User Experience (20%)

This category assesses the design's consideration of user needs and functionality.

- Evaluates the flow and efficiency of the layout, ensuring a positive and intuitive user experience.
- Considers how the space will be used and how the design supports the intended activities.

Feasibility & Realizability (20%)

This category assesses the practicality and potential for implementation of the design concept.

- Evaluates the feasibility of the design within the given context, budget, and timeline.
- Considers potential challenges and proposes realistic solutions.

Aesthetics & Style (10%)

This category evaluates the overall visual appeal and cohesiveness of the design.

- Emphasizes the creation of a visually striking and memorable aesthetic.
- Considers the effective use of color, materials, and textures to enhance the design.



COMMERCIAL DESIGN

Concept & Brand Identity (25%)

This category assesses the originality and effectiveness of the design concept in relation to the brand.

- Evaluates the clarity and strength of the concept in conveying the brand's identity and values.
- Ensures the design creates a cohesive and engaging experience that aligns with the brand's message.

Spatial Design & Functionality (25%)

This category evaluates the effective organization and utilization of space within the commercial environment, integrating sustainable practices for optimal performance.

- Assesses how the layout ensures optimal functionality for the intended use, considering customer flow, employee needs, operational efficiency, and the thoughtful integration of technology.
- Evaluates how design choices contribute to resource efficiency (such as reduced energy and water consumption) and minimize the environmental impact of the functional space.

Aesthetics & Visual Impact (20%)

This category assesses the overall visual appeal and impact of the design.

- Emphasizes the creation of a memorable and engaging environment that reflects the brand's aesthetic.
- Considers the effective use of lighting, color, materials, and textures to enhance the ambiance.

Originality & Innovation (15%)

This category recognizes unique and creative design elements that set the project apart.

- Rewards innovative solutions to design challenges and the integration of cutting-edge technologies.
- Encourages a design that stands out and differentiates the brand from its competitors.

Customer Experience (15%)

This category evaluates the design's ability to create a positive and memorable customer experience.

- Considers factors such as comfort, convenience, accessibility, and engagement.
- Ensures the design encourages customer interaction and fosters a sense of loyalty to the brand.



TRANSFORMATIVE DESIGN

Originality & Concept (25%)

This category recognizes unique and creative design elements that set the project apart.

- Recognizes designs that are both functional and stylish, with unique touches that make the home special for the people living there.
- Identifies creative solutions to design challenges, unconventional reinterpretations, or new approaches within the transformation.

Aesthetics & Visual Impact (25%)

This category assesses the overall visual appeal and memorable impact of the design.

- Emphasizes the creation of a striking and cohesive environment or exterior form.
- Considers the effective use of lighting, color, materials, and textures to enhance the ambiance or visual presence of the design.

Spatial Planning & Functionality (20%)

This category assesses the effective organization and utilization of space within the transformative design.

- Ensures a seamless flow and connection between redefined or new areas, optimizing the layout for evolved functional needs.
- Considers how the transformation enhances usability, user movement, and elements like natural light and ventilation.

Material Selection & Quality (20%)

This category assesses the selection and application of materials within the transformative design.

- Emphasizes the use of high-quality, durable, and aesthetically pleasing materials.
- Considers the suitability of materials for their intended purpose in the transformed space and the overall design aesthetic.

Sustainability & Environmental Considerations (10%)

This category evaluates the project's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental responsibility.

- Encourages the use of eco-friendly and responsibly sourced materials.
- Considers energy-efficient design choices and features that reduce the transformed space's environmental footprint.



ECO-CONSCIOUS DESIGN

Environmental Impact & Performance (30%)

This category evaluates how effectively the project reduces its environmental footprint.

- Assesses efforts in reducing energy and water consumption, carbon footprint, and overall environmental load.
- Recognizes passive design strategies, energy-efficient systems, and low-impact construction methods.

Sustainable Materials & Construction Methods (25%)

This category examines the sourcing, selection, and application of sustainable materials and building practices.

- Rewards use of certified green materials, recycled or upcycled elements, and low-VOC finishes.
- Evaluates sustainable sourcing, durability, and the reduction of waste during fabrication and installation.

Longevity, Adaptability & Lifecycle Thinking (20%)

This category assesses how the design supports long-term use and environmental responsibility over time.

- Considers how the design allows for future modifications, flexible use, and material reusability.
- Evaluates ease of maintenance and long-term durability to reduce the need for replacement or repair.

Resource Optimization & Waste Minimization (15%)

This category assesses how the design strategically minimizes resource consumption and waste generation.

- Evaluates design approaches that reduce material usage, water, and energy during a project's creation and use.
- Recognizes efforts in minimizing construction waste and designing for easy disassembly or recycling.

Practicality & User Integration (10%)

This category looks at how seamlessly sustainable features are embedded into everyday use.

- Ensures eco-conscious solutions are functional, intuitive, and enhance user experience.
- Rewards efforts that encourage user participation in sustainable living (e.g., recycling stations, modularity).



USE OF COLOUR

.Colour Harmony & Palette Selection (30%)

This criterion evaluates how well colors are chosen and combined to create a pleasing and balanced look.

- Assesses the overall balance and visual harmony of the selected color palette.
- Considers how colors work together to create a cohesive and appealing design.

Spatial Enhancement through Colour (25%)

This category evaluates how colour is used to shape perception and function within a space.

- Assesses how colour zoning, accents, or gradients are used to define functions, direct movement, or create focal points within a space.
- Recognizes the effective use of colour to modify spatial perception. (e.g. to expand, contract, unify, or delineate areas.)

Technical Proficiency & Application (20%)

This criterion assesses the skillful and precise execution of the color scheme in the design.

- Evaluates the quality of color application across various materials and surfaces.
- Considers the designer's understanding of how different lighting conditions affect color perception.

Colour Strategy & Intent (15%)

This category evaluates the clarity and purpose behind the application of colour within the project.

- Assesses how colour choices are strategically aligned with the project's narrative, user needs, or cultural context.
- Recognizes clear and purposeful application of colour to strengthen the spatial experience or brand identity.

Creativity & Originality (10%)

This category recognises innovative and bold approaches to the use of colour in design.

- Rewards unconventional or culturally inspired uses of colour that add character and uniqueness to the design.
- Assesses the designer's confidence and inventiveness in moving beyond safe or trend-driven palettes.





STUDIO CATEGORIES AWARD CRITERIA

Segments Requiring Different Judging Criteria

1. ADA Rising Star Award
2. ADA Trusted Designer Award
3. ADA Outstanding Designer Award



STUDIO CATEGORY SUBMISSION GUIDE

2025

STUDIO CATEGORY SUBMISSION GUIDE

This guide provides detailed information on submitting your design studio for consideration in the Studio Category. By following these guidelines, you can ensure your submission is complete and maximizes your chances of winning this prestigious award. Failure to comply with the requirements may result in disqualification.

Submission Opens: 1st September 2025

Submission Deadline: 15th October 2025

For the Studio Category, we prefer a streamlined submission process via a single PDF file. This comprehensive document will showcase your design studio's achievements and allow for easy evaluation by the judges.

Submission Requirement:

Please ensure your Studio Category submission is a single PDF file that includes all the following information:

- For the ADA Rising Star Award: This category is open to companies established or newly registered between **2022 and 2025**.
- Detail your studio's vision, mission, design philosophy, and team expertise.
- Highlight your studio's most outstanding completed projects.
- Each project description should incorporate:
 - High-resolution images (under 25 MB, no logos/watermarks/text).
 - A clear and well-labeled floor plan (optional)
- Include written testimonials from satisfied clients showcasing positive client experiences (e.g., emails, Whatsapp)
- A brief explanation of why your studio deserves the recognition.
- Emphasize your unique strengths, design philosophy, sustainability measures, and achievements, including any awards or recognitions your studio has received, your impact on the design industry, and/or your positive client experiences (if applicable).
- Submit your completed PDF via the Atap Design Awards online submission portal.



ADA RISING STAR AWARD

The ADA Rising Star Award recognises up-and-coming designers who excel in curating innovative and impactful design concepts.

Judges will evaluate applicants based on their individual skills and potential, demonstrated through the following criteria:

Portfolio Presentation (15%)

Judges will evaluate how effectively the participants introduce themselves and communicate their company's core values, as well as the clarity of the design criteria presentation.

- The portfolio should clearly introduce the company and its core values.
- The entry submission should effectively communicate the design criteria within the portfolio.

Design Aesthetics (25%)

Judges will evaluate the overall visual appeal of the design, including colour palettes, textures, and visual harmony.

- Assess the coherence of design elements and how they contribute to the space's overall aesthetic.
- Consider the creativity and originality in presenting design concepts and ideas.

Creativity & Innovation (25%)

This category emphasises the originality and innovation of the design elements that demonstrate creative thinking and push the boundaries of conventional design norms.

- Originality and uniqueness of design concepts, pushing boundaries and challenging conventional norms.
- Innovative use of materials, textures, and elements to create novel design solutions.
- Incorporation of unconventional ideas or approaches that demonstrate innovative thinking and creativity.

Functionality & Practicality (20%)

This category assesses the practicality and usability of the designs, ensuring that the design looks good and functions effectively for its intended purpose.

- Efficient use of space and how well it accommodates the intended functions and activities.
- Consider the adaptability of the design to evolving needs and potential future changes in use or occupancy.

Client Satisfaction & Testimonials (15%)

This criterion evaluates the ability to deliver happy clients through excellent communication, understanding client needs, and meeting or exceeding expectations.

- Effective communication with clients and understanding their needs should be demonstrated.
- Success in meeting or exceeding client expectations and positive feedback from clients should be evident.



ADA TRUSTED DESIGNER AWARD

The ADA Trusted Designer Award recognises interior designers with consistent customer satisfaction, a testament to their quality of work and unwavering commitment to the industry.

Judges will evaluate nominees based on the following criteria:

Portfolio Presentation (15%)

Judges will evaluate how effectively the participants introduce themselves and communicate their company's core values, as well as the clarity of the design criteria presentation.

- The portfolio should clearly introduce the company and its core values.
- The entry submission should effectively communicate the design criteria within the portfolio.

Client Satisfaction & Testimonials (25%)

This criterion evaluates the ability to deliver happy clients through excellent communication, understanding of client needs, and meeting or exceeding expectations.

- Effective communication with clients and understanding their needs should be demonstrated.
- Success in meeting or exceeding client expectations and positive feedback from clients should be evident.
- Receives positive endorsements and recommendations from clients and peers, reflecting trust and respect within the industry.

Professionalism & Integrity (25%)

This category evaluates the designer's professional conduct and reputation among peers, clients, and collaborators.

- Assess the participant's ability to address client concerns or issues promptly and effectively, demonstrating a proactive approach to resolving any conflicts or misunderstandings that may arise during the project.
- Demonstrates a track record of successful projects and satisfied clients, enhancing their reputation as a trusted designer.

Functionality & Practicality (20%):

This category assesses the practicality and usability of the designs, ensuring that the design looks good and functions effectively for its intended purpose.

- Efficient use of space and how well it accommodates the intended functions and activities.
- Consider the adaptability of the design to evolving needs and potential future changes in use or occupancy.

Design Aesthetics (15%):

Judges will evaluate the overall visual appeal of the design, including colour palettes, textures, and visual harmony.

- Assess the coherence of design elements and how they contribute to the space's overall aesthetic.
- Consider the creativity and originality in presenting design concepts and ideas.



ADA OUTSTANDING DESIGNER AWARD

The ADA Outstanding Designer Award celebrates ten established design professionals who have consistently pushed boundaries and redefined excellence within the field of interior design. This prestigious award recognises individuals who demonstrate exceptional talent across various design aspects.

Judges will evaluate nominees based on the following criteria:

Portfolio Presentation (15%)

Judges will evaluate how effectively the participants introduce themselves and communicate their company's core values, as well as the clarity of the design criteria presentation.

- The portfolio should clearly introduce the company and its core values.
- The entry submission should effectively communicate the design criteria within the portfolio.

Client Satisfaction & Testimonials (20%)

This criterion evaluates the ability to deliver happy clients through excellent communication, understanding client needs, and meeting or exceeding expectations.

- Effective communication with clients and understanding their needs should be demonstrated.
- Success in meeting or exceeding client expectations and positive feedback from clients should be evident.

Industry Recognition (20%)

This criterion focuses on exhibiting a positive reputation in the industry and recognition from peers, industry associations, and media.

- The participant should exhibit a positive reputation in the industry and receive recognition from peers, industry associations, and media.
- Active participation in industry events and initiatives further solidifies the designer's standing within the industry.

Design Excellence & Thought Leadership (30%)

This criterion assesses innovation, originality, mastery of design principles, and contributions to advancing design trends and practices.

- Designs should exhibit innovation and originality, showcasing mastery of design principles and aesthetics.
- Consistent delivery of high-quality, impactful designs and solutions that address real-world problems should be demonstrated.

Sustainable Ethical Design with Community Engagement (15%)

This criterion evaluates the integration of sustainable materials and practices, consideration of environmental and ethical factors, and involvement in projects benefiting local communities.

- Integration of sustainable materials and practices, along with consideration of environmental and ethical factors, should be evident in design decisions.
- Involvement in projects or initiatives benefiting local communities should be showcased.





ADA BEST YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD

Judging Criteria

ADA BEST YOUNG DESIGNER AWARD

This award recognises outstanding emerging talents in the field of interior design, celebrating their creativity, innovation, and promising potential. The category is open to individual designers who have shown exceptional promise and achievements early in their careers.

Submission Requirements:

Eligibility: The award is open to individual interior designers who are not owners, directors, or founders of interior design firms. Designers employed by firms are eligible, provided they do not hold ownership or leadership positions within the firm.

Age Limit: Applicants must be under the age of 30 at the time of submission.

Portfolio: Submission must include a portfolio showcasing the nominee's best work, highlighting their creativity, innovation, and design skills. The portfolio should demonstrate the nominee's unique design style and ability to address diverse design challenges.

Video: Nominees are required to submit a video introduction, introducing themselves and providing insights into their design philosophy, inspirations, and aspirations. This video is your chance to make a lasting impression, as it will be showcased on Day 3 of the Atap Design Awards 2025 if you are selected as a winner!

Video Requirements:

- **Length:** No longer than 60 seconds.
- **Format:** Portrait orientation is preferred for optimal viewing on various devices.

Winner Announcement: The winner of the ADA Best Young Designer Award will be announced on Day 3 of the ADA Week.

Additional Terms:

- Nominees must consent to the use of their portfolio materials and video introductions for promotional purposes related to the award.
- Submissions must be original works of the nominee, and any collaboration or assistance must be clearly credited.
- The decision of the judging panel is final and binding.
- The organisers reserve the right to disqualify any submission that does not adhere to the submission requirements or violates the terms and conditions of the award.



JUDGING CRITERIA

Portfolio Presentation (15%)

Judges will evaluate how effectively the nominee introduces themselves, communicate their core values, and clarify the design criteria presentation.

- The portfolio should clearly introduce the nominee and their core values.
- The entry submission should effectively communicate the design criteria within the portfolio.

Creativity & Innovation (25%):

This category emphasises the originality and innovation of the design elements that demonstrate creative thinking and push the boundaries of conventional design norms.

- Originality and uniqueness of design concepts, pushing boundaries and challenging conventional norms.
- Innovative use of materials, textures, and elements to create novel design solutions.
- Incorporation of unconventional ideas or approaches that demonstrate innovative thinking and creativity.

Design Aesthetics (25%):

Judges will evaluate the overall visual appeal of the design, including colour palettes, textures, and visual harmony.

- Assess the coherence of design elements and how they contribute to the space's overall aesthetic.
- Consider the creativity and originality in presenting design concepts and ideas.

Functionality & Practicality (20%):

This category assesses the practicality and usability of the designs, ensuring that the design looks good and functions effectively for its intended purpose.

- Efficient use of space and how well it accommodates the intended functions and activities.
- Consider the adaptability of the design to evolving needs and potential future changes in use or occupancy.

Project Diversity & Range (10%)

Judges will consider the diversity and range of projects included in the nominee's portfolio, reflecting their ability to work across different project types, scales, and design contexts.

- Portfolio should feature a diverse range of project types, such as residential, commercial, hospitality, retail and/or institutional.
- Projects should be of varying scopes and scales, including small-scale renovations, medium-sized interior design projects, and large-scale architectural or spatial interventions.





Thank you for your submission and we wish you the best of luck!

Contact

Email:support@atap.co

Website:<https://www.design-awards.atap.co/>

ATAP.CO
